

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035084
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COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 035084

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING NAIROBI 2016 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
DOHA ISLAMABAD JIDDA KUWAIT MANAMA, MUSCAT PORT LOUIS
TEHRAN VICTORIA DHAHRAN 15 FEB.

QTE S E C R E T NAIROBI 2016

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, MPOL, KE, US

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 035084

REF: STATE 030235

1. IN PURELY OPERATIONAL TERMS, EMBASSY BELIEVES KENYA
WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH TWO VISITS PER YEAR OF TWO
WEEKS DURATION BY MIDEASTFOR FLAGSHIP. HOWEVER, IT WOULD
BE IMPORTANT FOR SUCH VISITS TO BE BILLED AS ROUTINE PORT

CALLS SIMILAR TO VISITS OF NAVAL SHIPS FROM BRITIAN, FRANCE, INDIA, JAPAN AND EVEN USSR. WHAT KENYA WANTS TO AVOID IS GIVING PRETEXT TO OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO ACCUSE IT OF BEING IN THE POCKET OF IMPERIALISM. (FOR EXAMPLE, AS RESULT OF RECENT NEWSWEEK PERISCOPE ITEM ON FORTH-COMING NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIER VISIT TO MOMBASA, GOVERNMENT-OWNED GHANAIAI TIMES OF ACCRA ASKED RHETORICALLY "ARE AFRICAN LEADERS PERMITTING PAROCHIAL INTERESTS TO DESTROY THE GAINS SO FAR ACHIEVED IN THE BITTER AND BLOODY STRUGGLE FOR TOTAL REDEMPTION AND UNITY? DID KENYA SACRIFICE ALL THOSE MILLIONS OF KIKUYU LIVES ONLY TO BECOME THE GOOD BOY OF WHITE IMPERIALISTS AND TO ISOLATE HERSELF FROM ALL HER SISTER STATES WHO WON'T TURN STOOGES?")

2. THIS IT IS NOT THE ACTUAL SUPPORT THAT KENYA MIGHT PROVIDE TO MIDDLE EAST FORCE BUT THE PUBLIC PORTRAYAL OF THIS FACT THAT IS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE. EVEN IF KENYA WERE WILLING FOR IT TO BE KNOWN THAT IT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL STATES IN REGION CONTRIBUTING TO SUPPORT OF U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE (AND WE DOUBT KENYA WOULD AGREE TO SUCH PUBLICITY), EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE DRAWING KENYA INTO IMPLICIT SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., SINCE THIS MAY FOSTER UNWANTED AND UNJUSTIFIED DEPENDENCE ON U.S. MILITARY MUSCLE IN TIME OF CRISIS.

3. WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, EMBASSY COULD CONCUR IN TWO VISITS PER YEAR OF FLAGSHIP, BUT THESE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 035084

WOULD BE HANDLED ON ROUTINE BASIS AND WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT INFORM KENYANS THAT THEY WERE "SUPPORTING" MIDDLE EAST FORCE, NOR WOULD WE DISCUSS FREQUENCY OF VISITS WITH THEM IN ADVANCE. WE WOULD INSIST THAT THERE BE NO PUBLIC MENTION OF USE OF MOMBASA IN DISCUSSIONS OF ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE TO ADJUST TO REDUCED USE OF BAHRAIN.

4. WITH RESPECT TO LOGISTICS ASPECTS, EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE WHATEVER SUPPORT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR MIDDLE EAST FORCE VISITS, AS IT HAS IN PAST. ALTHOUGH APPRECIATE WILLINGNESS OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE TO PROVIDE ITS OWN PORT LIAISON/SUPPORT PERSONNEL, EMBASSY WISHES TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO, I.E., NO MILITARY PERSONNEL BASED ASHORE, EVEN TEMPORARILY.

5. SHIPMENT OF PARTS AND SUPPLIES TO MIDDLE EAST FORCE UNITS WHILE IN PORT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIA

COMMERCIAL AIR CARGO AND NORMAL FPO MAIL MOVEMENT.
EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT CONCUR IN USE OF MAC SPECIAL
FLIGHTS (ALTHOUGH WE HAVE AGREED TO THEM ON EXCEPTIONAL
BASIS FOR SUPPORT OF CARRIER VISITS WHERE TONNAGE CAN-
NOT BE ACCOMMODATED COMMERCIALLY). WE WOULD ALSO BE
RELUCTANT TO SEE ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN VISITS
TO KENYA BY COMIDEASTFOR'S FLAG AIRCRAFT.

6. IN SUMMARY, WE BELIEVE KENYA WOULD BE PREPARED TO
ACCEPT FLAGSHIP AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR IN MOMBASA, BUT WOULD
NOT AND SHOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY OF THE ONUS OF HOSTING
AN AMERICAN BASE WHICH BAHRAIN IS TRYING TO SHUCK.
MARSHALL UNQTE HARTMAN

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